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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Nominations to the Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability

**AGENCY:** Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) is seeking nominations of qualified members of the public to be considered for appointment as members of the Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability (ACBTSA). ACBTSA is a federal advisory committee within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Management support for the activities of this committee is the responsibility of the OASH. The qualified individuals will be nominated to the Secretary of Health and Human Services for consideration of appointment as members of the ACBTSA. Members of the Committee, including the Chair, are appointed by the Secretary. Members are invited to serve on the Committee for up to four-year terms.

**DATES:** All nominations must be received no later than 4 p.m. EST on March 7, 2014, at the address listed below.

**ADDRESSES:** All nominations should be mailed or delivered to Mr. James Berger, Senior Advisor for Blood and Tissue Safety Policy; Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health; Department of Health and Human Services; 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 250; Rockville, MD 20852. Telephone: (240) 453-8803.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. James Berger, Senior Advisor for Blood and Tissue Safety Policy. Contact information for Mr. Berger is provided above.

A copy of the Committee charter and roster of the current membership can be obtained by contacting Mr. Berger or by accessing the ACBTSA website at <http://www.hhs.gov/ash/bloodsafety/advisorycommittee/>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The ACBTSA shall provide advice to the Secretary through the Assistant Secretary for Health. The committee shall advise on a range of policy issues to include: (1) identification of public health issues through surveillance of blood, and tissue safety issues with national biovigilance data tools; (2) identification of public health issues that affect availability of blood, blood products, and tissues; (3) broad public health, ethical and legal issues related to the safety of blood, blood products, and tissues; (4) the impact of various economic factors (e.g., product cost and supply) on safety and availability of blood, blood products, and tissues; (5) risk communications related to blood transfusion and tissue transplantation; and (6) identification of infectious disease transmission issues for blood, organs, blood stem cells and tissues.

The Committee consists of 23 voting members; 14 public members, including the Chair, and 9 individuals designated to serve as official representative members. The public

members are selected from state and local organizations, patient advocacy groups, provider organizations, academic researchers, ethicists, physicians, surgeons, scientists, risk communication experts, consumer advocates, legal organizations, and from among communities of persons who are frequent recipients of blood or blood products or who have received tissues or organs. The nine individuals who are appointed as official representative members are selected to serve the interests of the blood, blood products, tissue, and organ professional organizations or business sectors. The representative members will be from the AABB (formerly the American Association of Blood Banks); American Association of Tissue Banks; Eye Bank Association of America; an organ procurement organization; and one of either the American National Red Cross or America's Blood Centers on a rotating basis. The Committee composition can include additional representation from either the plasma protein fraction community or a trade organization; a manufacturer of blood, plasma, or other tissue/organ test kits; a manufacturer of blood, plasma or other tissue/organ equipment; and a major hospital organization or major hospital accreditation organization. Where more than one company produces a specified product or process, representatives from those companies will rotate on the same schedule as public members.

All ACBTSA members are authorized to receive the prescribed per diem allowance and reimbursement for travel expenses that are incurred to attend meetings and conduct Committee-related business, in accordance with Standard Government Travel Regulations. Individuals who are appointed to serve as public members are authorized also to receive a stipend for attending Committee meetings and to carry out other Committee-related business. Individuals who are appointed to serve as representative

members for a particular interest group or industry are not authorized to receive a stipend for the performance of these duties.

This announcement is to solicit nominations of qualified candidates to fill two (2) upcoming vacant public member positions. Public members on the ACBTSA are classified as special government employees (SGEs).

#### Nominations:

In accordance with the charter, persons nominated for appointment as members of the ACBTSA should be among authorities knowledgeable in tissue banking, tissue transplantation, tissue/organ transplant safety, blood banking, transfusion medicine, plasma therapies, transfusion safety, bioethics, and/or related disciplines. Nominations should be typewritten. The following information should be included in the package of material submitted for each individual being nominated for consideration of appointment:

(a) the name, return address, daytime telephone number and affiliation(s) of the individual being nominated, the basis for the individual's nomination, the category for which the individual is being nominated, and a statement bearing an original signature of the nominated individual that, if appointed, he or she is willing to serve as a member of the committee; (b) the name, return address, and daytime telephone number at which the nominator may be contacted. Organizational nominators must identify a principal contact person in addition to the contact; and (c) a copy of a current curriculum vitae or resume for the nominated individual.

Individuals can nominate themselves for consideration of appointment to the Committee. All nominations must include the required information. Incomplete nominations will not

be processed for consideration. The letter from the nominator and certification of the nominated individual must bear original signatures; reproduced copies of these signatures are not acceptable.

The Department is legally required to ensure that the membership of HHS federal advisory committees is fairly balanced in terms of points of view represented and the functions to be performed by the advisory committee. Every effort is made to ensure that the views of women, all ethnic and racial groups, and people with disabilities are represented on HHS federal advisory committees. Therefore, the Department encourages nominations of qualified candidates from these groups. The Department also encourages geographic diversity in the composition of the committee. Appointment to this committee shall be made without discrimination on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and cultural, religious, or socioeconomic status.

The Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch are applicable to individuals who are appointed as public members of federal advisory committees. Individuals appointed to serve as public members of federal advisory committees are classified as SGEs. SGEs are government employees for purposes of the conflict of interest laws. Therefore, individuals appointed to serve as public members of the ACBTSA are subject to an ethics review. The ethics review is conducted to determine if the individual has any interests and/or activities in the private sector that may conflict with performance of their official duties as a member of the Committee. Individuals appointed to serve as public members of the Committee will be required to disclose information regarding financial holdings, consultancies, and research grants and/or contracts.

Dated: February 6, 2014.

James J. Berger,

Senior Advisor for Blood and Tissue Safety Policy

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